Renovation of monuments

590. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether renovation of major monuments like Red Fort and Qutab Minar has been carried out recently without using correct conservation technique and using substandard material;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the renovation work was carried out without preparing a conservation plan;

(d) what are the reasons for carrying out renovation in such a manner; and

(e) what steps have been taken by Government to ensure proper renovation plan for these monuments?

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE (SHRIMATI AMBIKA SONI):(a) No, Sir. The conservation works at Red Fort and Qutab Minar have been carried out with appropriate materials and techniques as per archaeological norms and principles, in vogue.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) and (d) The conservation work of these monuments were carried out as per routine annual conservation programme prepared every year by the Archaeolgical Survey of India (ASI). A detailed Comprehensive Conservation Management Plan for the Red Fort is under preparation for renovation works.

(e) The ASI has undertaken regular maintenance and conservation programme of the protected monuments besides structural conservation wherever necessary. The conservation of the monuments is a continuous process.

Protection of monuments/museums

591. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether ancient monuments/museums are not adequately protected leading to large scale theft of antiques;